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RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY including ECE's contribution to the preparatory work for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995, and strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session in 1993, and by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, namely during the period since the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1993/93 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/48/49).

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PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1993

1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts

3. In the final operative paragraph, the Council

> "Agrees that the United Nations regional commissions should play a major role in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in their respective regions and urges the Secretary-General to coordinate, at a high level, the mobilization of bilateral and multilateral resources for the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, including the necessary support for countries and the regional commissions"

4. The ECE, because of its lack of resources, is unable to play the major role envisaged by the ECOSOC resolution. However, it is intended that one of the new Regional Adviser posts will be dedicated to this area, and a specialist in the national accounts of countries in transition is being sought to fill a permanent post.

1993/6 Special session of the Statistical Commission

5. In the preamble of this resolution the Council recalls that the Statistical Commission has recommended strengthening the international statistical system, including "strengthened statistical divisions of the United Nations regional commissions and strengthened regional conferences of national chief statisticians in all five regions in terms of their responsibilities for statistical development in their regions"

6. In operative paragraph 1 the Council decided that a special session of the Statistical Commission should be held in 1994 "to review progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and decisions for strengthening the international statistical system in general (and) to monitor progress made in implementing the revised System of National Accounts and review plans for the further essential research work already identified".

7. It is in response to concerns such as these that the Conference of European Statisticians has developed further its coordination of statistical activity in the region including the joint presentation of the statistical programmes of major organizations. The ECE plays an important role in specific inter-agency task forces and it is anticipated that the ECE will be represented at the Special Session of the Statistical Commission.

1993/22 Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

8. In operative paragraph 15 the Council "invites the regional commissions to take an active part in the preparations for and observance of the Year, focusing on the specific needs and requirements of each region".

9. In response to this invitation, and also in continuation of its previous work, which resulted in the UN/ECE/UNFPA publication Demographic Causes and Economic Consequences in Population Aging (Economic Studies No.3, 1992), the

secretariat will publish in 1994 another study relating to population aging, entitled Social Aspects and Country Reviews of Population Aging: Europe and North America, scheduled as No.6 in the same series.

1993/50 Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

10. In response to the provisions of decision 1993/50 the following action has been taken.

11. A new version of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.8) has been prepared in English and French by the ECE secretariat and published. The Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish versions are still in preparation but should be published soon. These new Recommendations have been considered by the relevant ECE bodies and other cooperating organizations (International Maritime Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, Central Office for International Railway Transport, Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine) and shall be implemented by 1 January 1995 through their respective legal instruments applicable to the international transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterway, sea and air.

12. Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 deals with the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. One of the programme areas of this chapter deals with the harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals, which is one of the main terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, mainly for purposes of transport safety and trade facilitation. In accordance with chapter 19, an International Conference on Chemical Safety will be convened under the auspices of WHO, ILO and UNEP and will be hosted by the Government of Sweden, in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994. This Conference will discuss priorities for action for the implementation of the various programme areas of chapter 19, as well as the possible formal establishment of an intergovernmental forum for chemical safety. ECE Governments participating in the Conference may wish to bring operative paragraph 5 of ECOSOC Resolution 1993/50 to the attention of their representative to the Conference in order to avoid duplication of work and of competence in this area.

13. With regard to the provision of staff resources, the vacancies in the Transport Division have been filled on a temporary basis and steps have been taken to improve the situation on a more permanent basis.

1993/60 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

14. In the operative paragraphs of the resolution, the Council, inter alia:

> 3. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the project evaluation report requested by the Council in resolution 1991/74;
>
> 4. Invites the scientific and technical institutions concerned to take part in the special session on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, which will be held in Cairo in April 1994, under the

auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Tunnel Association;

5. Invites the States concerned and the competent bodies to cooperate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain in carrying out studies for the implementation of the project and to take part in the International Colloquium on the Permanent Link, which will be held at Seville, Spain, in 1994;

6. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995;

7. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give his full support to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to enable them to carry out the above-mentioned activities and, within existing priorities, to provide them with the necessary resources."

15. The ECE secretariat has initiated contacts with the Governments of Morocco and Spain and with the Economic Commission for Africa with a view to identifying the project activities in which it could be involved and defining the modalities of such involvement, as well as the structure and contents of the report to be presented to ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1995.

1993/61 Strengthening the role of the regional commissions

16. In the resolution the Council reaffirms its support for decentralization in order to achieve a more effective distribution of responsibilities and tasks between global, regional and national entities in the economic, social and related fields. It took note of the measures taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the Organization at the regional level, and urged him to continue his efforts in that direction as appropriate. The Council also recommended to the General Assembly that, in connection with the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, it consider the recommendations made by the regional commissions.

1993/70 Scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development

17. In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Council

1. Reaffirms that in the era of the global concern for the environment and in the new political climate, the conversion of military technologies for civilian use and sustainable development should receive international attention, with the appropriate support and involvement of the United Nations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its second session a report on scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development, with a focus on technology assessment issues, particularly the economic effects,

employment implications and environmental consequences of alternative technological choices.

18. The Commission may wish to request its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology, Senior Economic Advisers and Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, to consider the opportunity of involvement in the activities related to the fields mentioned in the resolution and to submit their recommendations to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

1993/232 Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

(see paragraphs 33-34 below)

1993/316 Non-participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Yugoslavia) in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe

19. The Council decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe as long as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) did not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

1993/317 Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe

20. The Council approved the amendment of articles 3, 7, 9 and 10 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe, as contained in Commission decision N (48). Particular attention was given to article 7 relating to membership of ECE.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

48/19 Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

21. In accordance with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the ECE has been assigned a central role within the United Nations for the economic construction of the new Europe. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Commission decision D (48) and paragraph 11 of decision C (48) the Commission has continued its work in implementing the relevant provisions of the Concluding documents of the CSCE. The secretariat has submitted written contributions to the first and second meetings of the CSCE Economic Forum and participated actively in both meetings. Cooperation between the secretariat of ECE and the CSCE has been intensified. An account of the Commission's activities in this field since the forty-eighth session is contained in document E/ECE/1288.

48/176 Human settlements

22. In operative paragraph 6 of the resolution the Assembly:

"Requests all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute and participate actively in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

23. The Committee on Human Settlements at its fifty-fourth session in September 1993 considered the Committee's contribution to Habitat II and took concrete steps to this effect (ECE/HBP/89, para. 11). The Committee has submitted to the Commission a draft decision on the organization of a regional preparatory meeting for Habitat II as recommended in Assembly resolution 47/180.

48/181 Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

24. In the resolution the Assembly notes Commission decision B (48) and:

1. Reaffirms the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition, as well as all other countries, into the world economy, in particular through improved market access for their exports of goods and services; such integration will support the systemic transformation of countries with economies in transition towards market-oriented policies and will, simultaneously, have a positive impact on world trade and global economic growth and development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen - within existing resources and through appropriate arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat - the ability of the United Nations system to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and technical assistance to the countries with economies in transition and to promote and enhance mutual cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, within their respective mandates;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to study - within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution and while continuing the existing cooperation with relevant international institutions and entities - possible areas of economic and technical cooperation among countries with economies in transition, as well as with the developing countries, identifying the role the United Nations system could play in this field, with a view to encouraging greater participation by those countries in the world economy.

25. During the discussion of the draft resolution in the Second Committee of the Assembly, the secretariat submitted a note outlining possible coordination arrangements within the secretariat which assigned a central role to ECE.

26. An account of ECE activities since the forty-eighth session to assist countries in transition to a market economy and to facilitate their integration into the global economy is contained in document E/ECE/1287.

48/190 Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

27. In operative paragraph 2 of the resolution the Assembly:

"Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system, and that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session".

28. The Commission has formally adopted sustainable development as a guiding principle for all relevant activities of the ECE. Its Principal Subsidiary Bodies are promoting this principle by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into projects and programmes in all areas.

29. The ECE Action Plan to Implement Agenda 21 is being transmitted with the general approval of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development at its second session in May 1994, pursuant to Commission decision F (48).

30. In accordance with the invitation contained in Agenda 21 the Commission, in paragraph 4 of decision G (48) and paragraph 9 of decision F (48), requested the secretariat to carry out a feasibility study on the convening of a regional conference on transport and the environment. The Executive Secretary's report on the feasibility study is contained in document E/ECE/1299.

48/204 International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery

31. In the resolution the Assembly:

"Reaffirms its appeal to all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide cooperation in various forms, and special and other assistance, in particular in the most severely affected areas and with a view to facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to those areas;

Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the circumstances in the region, to carry out, in cooperation with the Government of Croatia, an assessment of needs for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Croatia, and to introduce, if appropriate, an international appeal for the funding of a programme for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development".

32. The Commission may wish, as a follow up to paragraph 4 of decision D (48), to reiterate its request to its subsidiary bodies to study possible action to assist the Government of Croatia in sectors mentioned in the resolution and to submit their recommendations to the Commission at its fiftieth session. It may also wish to renew its request to the secretariat to submit the findings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies to the Secretary-General to assist him in preparing his report to the General Assembly.

48/206 Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

33. In the resolution the Assembly:

Requests the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the follow-up to its resolutions 45/190, 46/150 and 47/165 and, in particular, to continue to maintain close contacts with the Commission of the European Communities and regional and other relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation, coordination and complementarity in the multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas, while implementing programmes and specific projects.

34. An account of ECE activities in this field is contained in the Note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1297) in response to decision J (48).

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSIONS IN 1993

1993/23 International Year of the Family

1993/24 Tenth anniversary of International Youth Year and draft world programme of action for youth towards to year 2000 and beyond

1993/72 Science and technology for sustainable development

1993/76 Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

48/186 International Conference on Population and Development

48/189 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

48/210 Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)